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The Green Thumb

A Newsletter of Extension Horticultural Activities and Events
For York County Extension Volunteers

Vol. 5, Issue 6
June, 2004

Calendar of Events

Jul 5	OFFICE CLOSED FOR JULY 4 th HOLIDAY
Jul 7, 6:30pm	4H Mums Project: Growing Mums for Fun and Profit
Jul 17, 10am-12n	Lawn Renovation Clinic, W. Woodland Drive
Jul 21, 12n-1pm	Gardening Wednesday WHRO FM 89.5
Jul 26-30	Jr. 4-H Camp Week
Aug 2, 8am	Employee training/True Value Hardware – reading the seed label
Aug 7, 10am-12n	Lawn Renovation Clinic, Yorkshire Drive
Aug 9, 8am	Employee training/True Value Hardware – understanding fertilizer
Aug 11, 6:30pm	4H Mums Project: Growing Mums for Fun and Profit
Aug 14, 10am-12n	Lawn Maintenance Clinic, Grafton True Value
Aug 16, 8am	Employee training/True Value Hardware – lime
Aug 23, 8am	Employee training/True Value Hardware – mowing and watering
Sep 18	Virginia State Arboretum at Blandy Farm (education opportunity)
Sep 22, 6:30pm	4H Mums Project: Growing Mums for Fun and Profit

Thursdays Work/Learn Day in the Learning Garden 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.

For additions/corrections to the Calendar of Events contact Jody at 890-4940 or Dianne Taylor at 868-4090, e-mail: taylors@exis.net. The deadline for the Green Thumb is ALWAYS the 15th of the month, no exception.

E-mail changes: If you have changes to any of the methods of communication, please notify Jody. Jody will pass the word. We want to keep in contact with you. These changes will be posted to the weekly e-mails and will be in the Green Thumb.

Master Gardener Mission Statement

Our mission, as trained volunteers in partnership with the York County, Virginia Cooperative Extension Agent, is to provide horticultural educational opportunities to the public through research-based horticultural programs and activities to enhance our environment, lives and community.

www.ext.vt.edu

Extension is a joint program of Virginia Tech, Virginia State University, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and state and local governments.

Virginia Cooperative Extension programs and employment are open to all, regardless of race, color, religion, sex, age, veteran status, national origin, disability, or political affiliation. An equal opportunity/affirmative action employer.

Notes from Jim

Greetings to all,

Summer has arrived, but I don't need to tell you that. We had a great study trip. Our first attempt with the Junior Master Gardener program has been a great success. The salad we ate with the vegetable garden program was very good. Kids are growing virus free chrysanthemums throughout the summer and the program goes into a few special projects that are going on. I have really enjoyed our first two Landscape Series programs. It was great to visit Libbey's garden and Dave continues to explore new plant avenues. He shared some great landscape design information and principles with us.

This summer, Jody will be getting all of the classes, lodging assignments and other details ready for the weeklong 4-H Camp week. My plans are to take the notebooks that all of the coordinators made and assemble a task line and organize some other information. I trust that I will be able to get to it.

I look forward to gardening this summer and seeing if any of my ideas of color annuals will come together and be the splash that my mind thinks that they will be.

Have a safe holiday and a restful summer. Jim



Virginia General Assembly Makes Budget Decision

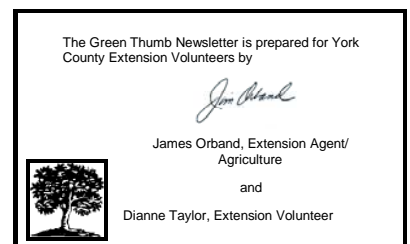
We have just been informed that the final vote was completed today by the Virginia General Assembly, and we are very pleased to report that the Extension Critical Staffing Initiative received \$1,257,000 and 23.00 positions each year of the upcoming biennium. Unfortunately, the research funding which was in the Governor's budget was eliminated.

We will now begin the difficult task of prioritizing needs, keeping in mind that we remain fully committed to funding those new agent positions that were funded this year 100% by our local government partners until we could obtain the state portion. The new CSI funding provides a great opportunity to enhance our Extension work. We are already planning next year's strategies for both research and extension, and we believe that this year's funding success provides hope for an even brighter future.

We hope that you will join us in expressing our deep appreciation to our Senators and Delegates, our Leadership Council Members, the Virginia Farm Bureau, the Virginia Agri-Business Council, and all of our many volunteers, supporters and clientele throughout the Commonwealth. The great effort they put forth has been miraculous, especially in this highly unusual legislative session. The success of this funding initiative would not have been possible without the superior programs conducted by our faculty and the support of our staff.

Thanks to all of you and congratulations on a job well done!

Sharron Quisenberry, Dean, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences,
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E-mail Address Update

Ellie Betts = Betts2@cox.net

Kathleen Ward = reward1@verizon.net

News from Peninsula Tree Stewards

Eighteen Master Gardeners completed the classroom training to become Peninsula Tree Stewards: Carol Brower, Dan Hawley, Angie Large, Larry Riddick, Jim Robertson and Teela Robertson from York County; Wendy Mooring, Marilyn Smith and David West from Hampton; Flora Adams, Richard Bunger, Ann DeForest, Tony Dion, John Dodson, Lynn Flood, Wade Green and Arthur Gustafson from James City County/Williamsburg; and Julie Mericle from Newport News. After completing twenty volunteer hours they will receive their full Tree Steward status. The projects they will be working on cover a wide range of educational benefits to the community, such as teaching children and adults correct tree planting methods, the value of trees, and their environmental impact. One project for school children focuses on the apple tree. Tree identification projects include coastal plane species and trees along the Noland Trail. Pruning practices associated with utility lines will be documented and responsible pruning methods recommended. The wetlands area adjacent to the Learning Garden in York County will be the site of a project stressing the importance of trees in upland wetlands to the ecosystem. For Jamestown 2007, a project associated with a nature trail is planned. Finally, this spring's very successful Reforestation Project will be repeated next year. Current tree stewards are looking forward to working with this enthusiastic and talented group.

Sue Liddell, Coordinator, Peninsula Tree Stewards



Date Change to Horticultural Therapy Meeting

The next Hort Therapy meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 30 (instead of June 23) at York Convalescent Center. We will meet at our usual time of 10:30 am. I look forward to seeing everyone and having a good time working with the residents and making our flower arrangements. Clare Balawajder, 223-0786.



Date Set for Master Gardeners' Annual Social Event

The date for our annual social event is set for Sunday afternoon, September 26. Judy Lange and Hank Scheele are co-coordinators and looking forward to establishing a fun filled event to bring as many York County Master Gardeners to the homecoming as possible. Pot Luck with vendor provided pork BBQ were the two biggest vote getters on the survey for food. Other great ideas for activities were also gleaned. Judy and Hank are looking for volunteers to help plan the event. Let them know soon if you can help. Hank Scheele, 833-6362.



Message from Evelyn Pinckney

I was delighted to have accompanied my husband to Las Vegas from May 9th – 15th for a NASA conference. I had the opportunity to see some beautiful plants and unusual eye-appealing arrangements: canary island date palm, Mediterranean fan palm, dwarf mock orange trees, gorgeous tall purple striped African iris, African sumac, sage palm (wonderful bush), Carolina cherry bush, honey suckle vine and petunias. I was extremely taken by the use of honey suckle as a ground cover and neatly trimmed at the winding paths edges with masses of petunia clumps mixed-in all over the place. The areas were simple in design and quite colorful but they also incorporated several water features and massive man-made rock formations. The dwarf African penguins with their animated moves happily entertained me. Thank you for letting me share my wonderful experiences with you. Evelyn.



Master Gardener Study Trip

The study trip to North Carolina went very well. The gardens that we visited allowed us to see many plants and their various uses in the landscape. We saw gardens of ferns and gardens of herbs. We visited the very formal gardens of Duke with a very nice mix of broad scenic views. Visiting the J. C. Raulston Arboretum primed us to visit the extensive collections of Norman Beal and then go and buy it at Tony Avent. A trip to the Patterson's is a good visit for ideas and encouragement. Big Bloomers is always helpful when acquiring plants.

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We're on the Web!

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June 2004

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1 10 Lawn Clinic Practice/Larry Riddick's home	2 6:30pm, 4H Mums Project, 9:30-11:30am Landscape Design Series, 203 Dawson Dr	3 Jim at Unit Coordinators meeting, Jamestown 4-H Center	4 Jim on Annual Leave	5
6	7	8 9:30-11:30am, Monthly meeting	9	10 Master Gardener College	11 Jody on Annual Leave	12
13 _____	14 Jim on Annual Leave _____	15	16 9:30-11:30am, Landscape Design Series, 219 Robanna Dr	17	18 _____	19
20	21 8:00-4:00pm, Latecomers Pesticide Recertification Jody on Annual Leave	22 Jody on Annual Leave	23 9:30-11:30am, Landscape Design Series, Burlington Plantation, Charles City Cty	24	25	26
27	28	29	30 10:30am, Hort Therapy, York Convalescent Center			